

## DESPERATE BATTLE

The Chinese and Japanese Fleets

## CHINA SUFFERS A SIGNAL DEFEAT

A Battleship and Two Cruisers

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**TIENTSIN, July 31.**—A naval battle was fought yesterday between the Chinese and Japanese fleets. The Japanese sunk the Chinese battleship *Chen Yuen*, and two large cruisers, supposed to be the vessels built for China by the Armstrongs, were captured or destroyed by the Japanese.

The *Chen Yuen* was a battleship of 7,400 tons displacement, carrying 14 1-2 inch compound armor at the water line. Her battery included four twelve-inch guns, pro-

ected by an armored breastwork, and two smaller Krupp's. She was also furnished with tubes with eleven Hotchkiss cannon and tubes for Whitehead torpedoes. In addition, the Chen Yuen had two eight and one-quarter-inch and six and six-inch Krupp's in her main battery and a secondary battery of Hotchkiss revolving cannon.

**Great Loss of Life Reported.**  
SHANGHAI, July 31.—News has just been received here of a desperate battle between the German submarine U-57 and the British ship HMS. The submarine was sunk, and the ship was damaged.

received here of a desperate battle between the fleets of China and Japan, in which the Chinese were defeated, and the Chen Yuen, the largest battleship but one in the Chinese service, was sunk, and two other large Chinese vessels, said to be first-class cruisers, were captured or destroyed. The battle was hotly contested, but the Japanese appear to have handled their guns, ships and torpedoes with more skill than the Chinese. The Chinese fleet emerged from the battle with

Later dispatches say that few, if any, of the Chinese engaged in the battle escaped. Two German officers, in command of the Chen Yuen, are reported to have met death with the crew of that vessel.

**Significance of the Defeat.**

The news of the battle was received here by private telegrams from Tien Tsin, and is

It is admitted that if the report is true, it means that an end has been put to the power of China, so far as fighting Japan upon the sea is concerned. Not one of the remaining ships of China will dare show itself out of port if it is true that the first-class battle ship Chen Yuen has been sunk by the Japanese. The Chen Yuen must have started out from Taku after leaving the Chinese transports there.

The two Chinese cruisers supposed to have been captured or destroyed during the engagement which ended so fatally for the Chen Yuan are the Chin Yuan and the Foo Ching. The Chin Yuan was a protected cruiser built at Elswick, England; she had a displacement of 2,300 tons and attained an average speed in her trials with all weights, batteries and crew aboard of 18½ knots. Her armament consisted of three 8½-inch Krupp's and two 6-inch Arin-

The Foo Ching was also an English built protected cruiser, very much similar to the Chin Yuan. She had a displacement of 2,500 tons, was built of steel in 1880 and carried ten guns of about the same caliber as those carried by the Chin Yuan.

YOKOHAMA, July 31.—The following official statement of the difficulties between China and Japan which led to the outbreak of hostilities between those two countries has been issued by the Japanese government:

Japan and China were approaching a settlement of their difficulties when China suddenly requested Japan to withdraw her fleet from Korea and to give a withdrawal

The Japanese regarded this as an ultimatum, but acting under the advice of their friendly powers, they agreed to the proposals, in principle, in amended form, at the same time declaring that if the threatened Chinese advance was made on the 20th, it would be regarded as a casus belli.

It is conjectured that the Japanese naval commanders were instructed to be on the quiet live for the Chinese warships, and seeing the latter advancing on July 27, they opened fire.

The Japanese do not believe that the Kow Shing, the Chinese transport sunk by a Japanese cruiser was flying the British flag, but in any case they regard it, if true, as being a *russe de guerre*.

The Japanese indignantly deny the charges of brutality brought against the officers and crew of the cruiser which sank the Chinese transport Kow Shing. No official report has been received at Yokohama of this engagement.

event of Japan becoming the dominant power in the far east. It is said to be possible that Japan might utilize the troubles at Mindanao Island, Malay archipelago, as a pretext to execute her ambitious designs.

**Protestant Missionaries Suffer.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, July 31.—Reports from Hong Kong show that there is unrest both in southern and northern China.

in northern and southern China and that the outlook for foreign missionaries is bad. Anti-missionary disturbances are reported from Kiang Yon, on the Yang Tse Kiang, but a far more serious affair occurred at Shek Lung, near Tung Kun, on the Pearl river, on June 20. In this instance the American Presbyterian Church was demolished by the mob, and one Christian, whether a foreigner or native has not yet been ascertained was killed. The Roman Cath-

**The Telegraph Service.**  
NEW YORK, July 31.—The Anglo-American Telegraph Company issued this morning the following notice: "Government messages to Tien Tsin and Peking, when

not written in plain language, are accepted, but are subject to the scrutiny of the Chinese government. Government telegrams in secret language for Foo Chow are admitted. Shanghai notifies that lines to Chefoo, Tien Tsin and the north are interrupted."

The effect that the Chinese telegraph companies will not accept any telegraphic messages respecting the war between China and Japan. The Chinese land lines north of Shanghai are interrupted, cutting off Tien Tsin and Peking.

The Commercial Cable Company this morning sent out the following notices: The Eastern Telegraph Company notifies us that the lines to Chefoo, Tien Tsin and the north are interrupted. The Eastern